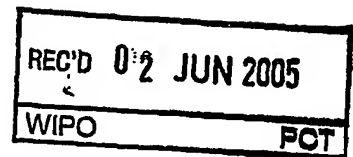


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference STPCT04	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US04/21435	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 July 2004 (02.07.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 03 July 2003 (03.07.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A47K 7/03; A47L 13/17 and US Cl.: 15/104.93; 427/402, 417, 430.1; 118/44, 100, 302, 304, 324, 407, 408, 410, 423			
Applicant SPONGETECH, INC.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>7</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>14</u> sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 03 February 2005 (03.02.2005)		Date of completion of this report 11 May 2005 (11.05.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/ US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Randall Chin Telephone No. (571) 272-1700	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/21435

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***☐ the international application as originally filed.☒ the description:

pages 1-34 _____ as originally filed

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims:

pages NONE _____, as originally filed

pages NONE _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages 35-48 _____, filed with the letter of 10 May 2005 (10.05.2005)

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-18 _____, as originally filed

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE _____, as originally filed

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:**☐ contained in the international application in printed form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.**4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:**☐ the description, pages NONE☐ the claims, Nos. NONE☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE**5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).****

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
- ☒ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention is accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

See the lack of unity section of the International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210)

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
- ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. _____

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V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Please See Continuation Sheet

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

V.1. Reasoned Statements:

The opinion as to Novelty was positive (Yes) with respect to claims 3-21, 23-27, 30-39, 41, 42, 50, 56, 61, 65, 68-76, 79, 84, 87-91

The opinion as to Novelty was negative (No) with respect to claims 1, 2, 22, 28, 29, 40, 42, 43-49, 51-55, 57-60, 63, 64, 66, 67, 77, 78, 80-83, 85, 86

The opinion as to Inventive Step was positive (Yes) with respect to claims 20, 21, 61, 65, 68-70, 74, 79, 84, 89

The opinion as to Inventive Step was negative (NO) with respect to claims 1-19, 22-60, 62-64, 66, 67, 71-73, 75-78, 80-83, 85-88, 90, 91

The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was positive (YES) with respect to claims 1-91

The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was negative (NO) with respect to claims NONE

V. 2. Citations and Explanations:

NEW CITATIONS

Claims 1, 2, 22, 28, 29, 40, 42-45, 51-55, 77, 78, 80-83, 85 and 86 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Taylor '417.

Taylor '417 teaches a cleansing pad 10 comprising a web of fibers (col. 3, lines 43-47) forming a substrate 12 having a "cellular" structure (since it includes voids as recited in col. 2, lines 44-46) and a solid cleansing agent 14 distributed substantially throughout said substrate in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses (col. 4, lines 1-2) of the pad in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent for cleansing purposes. The solid cleansing agent is deemed to also be a "pourable cleansing agent" as such is in "pourable" form even before it hardens as recited in col. 7, lines 52-62). Furthermore, when the hardened soap contacts water, it will create suds and would be deemed a "pourable cleansing agent". It is the claims that define the claimed invention, and it is the claims, not specifications that are found to be unpatentable.

As for claim 2, the cleansing agent comprises a pourable soap (col. 4, lines 1-2) that is in solid form at a first temperature range, and in pourable molten form at a second temperature range, and upon cooling to said first temperature range re-solidifies to its original composition (col. 7, lines 52-62).

As for claim 22, the substrate comprises synthetic materials.

As for claim 29, the substrate comprises non-woven materials (col. 3, lines 43-44).

As for claim 40, Taylor '417 also teaches a method of manufacturing a cleansing device, comprising the steps of providing a pourable cleansing agent that is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range, heating the cleansing agent to within the second temperature range such that the cleansing agent is in pourable molten form, applying the molten cleansing agent to one or more portions of a web of fibers that forms a substrate, and allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range to resolidify on the substrate (col. 6, line 10-col. 8, line 33) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses (col. 4, lines 1-2) of the pad in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent for cleansing purposes.

As for claim 42, col. 6, lines 10-21 mention the claimed temperature range.

As for claim 43, Taylor '417 teaches the step of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range further includes the steps of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to about room temperature (col. 7, lines 52-62).

As for claim 44, Taylor '417 teaches the step of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range is with a forced drying step (col. 7, lines 52-67).

Claims 45 and 54 are rejected similarly to claim 1 above.

As for claims 51 and 52, Taylor '417 teaches the step of applying the molten cleansing agent to the substrate further comprises the steps of injecting/spraying the molten cleansing agent into the substrate (Fig. 3) since the cleansing agent is impregnated within the substrate at the final product.

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(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

As for claim 53, there is a step of squeezing excess molten agent by rollers at 52, 54 (Fig. 4) from the substrate before allowing the agent to cool down.

As for claim 55, there is a step of selectively applying the molten agent throughout the substrate (col. 3, lines 61-67).

As for claims 77 and 81, there is an apparatus for manufacturing a cleansing device comprising a support for holding a substrate comprising a cellular structure, a conveyor and a sprayer for spraying pourable cleansing agent onto the substrate (Figs. 2 and 3).

Claims 78, 80, 82, 85 and 86 are rejected similarly as above.

As for claim 83, there would be a controller that controls operation.

Claims 3-19, 23-27, 30-32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 56 and 62 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Taylor '417.

As for claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 39, such sodium soaps and detergents are well known and one skilled in the art would find it obvious to select any of the claimed types for appropriate and desired usage (col. 5, lines 27-61).

As for claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 12, the claimed particular percentages would be well within the level of ordinary skill and could be obtained through a mere optimization process (col. 5, lines 27-61).

As for claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, such claimed elements for the cleansing agent are also deemed well known and one skilled in the art would find it obvious to select any of the claimed types for appropriate and desired usage.

As for claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, the claimed particular percentages would be well within the level of ordinary skill and could be obtained through a mere optimization process.

As for claim 23, to have provided naturally occurring materials would be obvious to one skilled in the art as such devices typically incorporate one of synthetic or natural materials. Such selection is merely up to one skilled in the cleansing art.

As for claims 24, 25 and 28, whether the substrate is reticulated, non-reticulated or a web of fibers is well within the level of ordinary skill and such arrangement merely depends on the final desired strength and/or durability of the substrate.

As for claims 26, 27, 30, 35, 36 and 38, such claimed elements for the substrate are also deemed well known and one skilled in the art would find it obvious to select any of the claimed types for appropriate and desired usage as well as for aesthetics.

As for claims 31 and 32, the claimed weight ratios are also within the level of ordinary skill and merely depends on the desired final product. Taylor '417 is clearly concerned with the amount of cleansing agent relative the substrate and through optimization, one skilled in the art could find the most suitable weight ratio (col. 3, line 61-col.4, line 5).

As for claim 41, one skilled could clearly eliminate any forced drying step for cooling purposes to eliminate system components. The resolidifying aspect has been explained previously.

As for claims 56 and 62, through optimization, one skilled in the art could apply different amounts or agents and/or different formulations of the agent to various parts of the substrate to best suit a particular function/task.

Claims 33, 34 and 37 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Taylor '417 in view of Reuven '506.

Taylor '417 teaches all of the recited subject matter as set forth previously with the exception of the device having fragrances, skin moisturizers, or antimicrobials/antiseptics. Reuven '506 teaches a cleansing device having fragrances, skin moisturizers, or antimicrobials/antiseptics (col. 4, lines 1-12). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have provided Taylor's device with fragrances, skin moisturizers, or antimicrobials/antiseptics as suggested by Reuven '506 for the purpose of adding versatility to the cleansing device and for aiding the user in a healthier manner.

Claims 71-73, 75 and 76 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Taylor '417 in view of Hanlon '735.

Taylor '417 teaches all of the recited subject matter as set forth previously with the exception of an injector which injects the molten agent into the substrate during its manufacture. Hanlon '735 teaches a cleansing device utilizing an injector (Fig. 4) which injects the molten agent into the substrate during its manufacture. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have modified Taylor's manufacturing device such that an injector injects the molten agent into the substrate during its manufacture as taught by Hanlon '735 as such step is well known in the applicator/coating arts. Whether one utilizes, spraying, immersion or injecting, each procedure is old and well known for coating and /or impregnating purposes.

Claims 40, 43-49, 54, 57-60, 63, 64, 66 and 67 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Field '858.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

As for claims 40, 54, 66 and 67, Field '858 teaches a method of manufacturing a cleansing device comprising the steps of providing a pourable (p.3, col.2, lines 40-44) cleansing agent that is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range, heating the cleansing agent to within the second temperature range such that the cleansing agent is in pourable molten form, applying the molten cleansing agent to one or more portions of a web of fibers that forms a substrate, and allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range to resolidify on the substrate.

As for claim 43, Field '858 teaches the step of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range further includes the steps of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to about room temperature.

As for claim 44, Field '858 teaches the step of allowing the cleansing agent to cool down to within the first temperature range is with a forced drying step (by a drum drier as shown in Figs. 1 or 1a).

Claims 45 is rejected similarly to claim 1 above.

As for claims 46, 48, 49, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63 and 64 there is shown a dipping/immersing step into tank 4 of the substrate into a pourable/molten cleansing agent (Fig. 1a embodiment).

As for claim 47, a compressing step occurs at as the substrate proceeds through the roller arrangement (Figs. 1a and 8a).

Claims 50, 87, 88, 90 and 91 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Field '858.

As for claim 50, the time of immersion is well within the level of ordinary skill and merely would depend on the desired characteristics of the final cleaning product.

As for claim 87, Field '858 already teach an immersion step and to have further provided an injecting step would be obvious as spraying, immersion and/or injecting are old and well known for coating and/or impregnating purposes.

Claims 88 and 90 are rejected also by the teachings of Field '858.

As for claim 91, there would be a controller for controlling operation of the system.

Claims 20, 21, 61, 65, 68-70, 74, 79, 84 and 89 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed combination of cleansing agent as recited in claims 20 and 21, the step of evacuating air out of the substrate in a vacuum chamber to induce transfusion of the agent into the substrate, and a press for compressing and decompressing the substrate to induce transfusion of agent into the substrate.

Claims 1-91 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cleansing device (10) comprising:
 - (a) a substrate (11) having a cellular structure; and
 - (b) a solid cleansing agent (12) comprising a pourable cleansing agent, distributed substantially throughout said substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of the substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.
2. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) comprises a pourable soap that is in solid form at a first temperature range, and in pourable molten form at a second temperature range, and upon cooling to said first temperature range re-solidifies to its original composition.
3. The cleansing device (10) of claim 2 wherein the pourable soap comprises sodium soaps generated from one or more of: palm oil, coconut oil, olive oil, castor oil and safflower oil.
4. The cleansing device (10) of claim 2 wherein the pourable soap comprises sodium soaps containing about 5 to 35% glycerine and/or 0 to 10% propylene glycols.
5. The cleansing device (10) of claim 2 wherein the pourable soap comprises at least between 1 and 20% sodium oleate.
6. The cleansing device (10) of claim 2 wherein the pourable soap is generated from organically produced oils.
7. The cleansing device (10) of Claim 2, wherein the pourable soap comprises sodium soaps and one or more of sugars, ethyl alcohol, rosins, polyhydroxy compounds and propylene glycols.
8. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the pourable cleansing agent contains about 1 to 100% synthetic detergents.

9. The cleansing device (10) of claim 8 wherein the synthetic detergents includes a combination of: (a) anionic synthetic detergents, (b) amphoteric detergents and (c) nonionic detergents.

10. The cleansing device (10) of claim 9 wherein the anionic synthetic detergents are present in an amount from about 0 to 50% on a 100% active basis.

11. The cleansing device (10) of claim 9 wherein the amphoteric detergents are present in an amount from about 0 to 20% on a 100% active basis.

12. The cleansing device (10) of claim 9 wherein the nonionic detergents are present in an amount from about 0 to 15% basis on a 100 % active basis.

13. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) contains about: 20 to 30% Triethanolamine, 7 to 19% Cocoate soap, 14 to 36% Palmitate soap, 7 to 9% Glycerine, 0 to 3% olive oil and 5 to 22% Stearic acid.

14. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) contains about: 10% stearic acid, a fat charge in the range of 41.5 to 44.0% , and a palm oil to coconut oil ratio of 80 to 20.

15. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) contains about: 5 to 12 % stearic acid; 35 to 50% fat charge and Palm oil to Coconut oil ratios from 50:50 to 90:10.

16. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) contains about 2 to 35% triethanolamine (TEA).

17. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) includes about: 20 to 30% Triethanolamine, 7 to 19% Cocoate soap, 14 to 36% Palmitate soap, 7 to 9% Glycerine and about 5 to 22% Stearic acid.

18. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) includes about: 10% stearic acid, a fat charge in the range of 41.5 to 44.0% , and a palm oil to coconut oil ratio of 80 to 20.

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19. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) includes about: 5 to 12 % stearic acid; 35 to 50% fat charge and Palm oil to Coconut oil ratios from 50:50 to 90:10.

20. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) includes, by weight percentage about:

Glycerine	10 to 30%,
Sodium Cocoate	8 to 20%,
Sodium Palmitate	12 to 20%,
Sodium Ricinulate	9 to 17%,
Safflower Oil Soap	2 to 5%,
Sorbitol	0 to 8%,
Sorbitan Oleate	2 to 8%,
Soybean Protein	2 to 8%, and
Titanium Dioxide	0 to 0.2%.

21. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) includes, by weight percentage about:

Glycerine	14-25%,
Sodium Cocoate	8 - 16%,
Sodium Palmitate	11 - 20%,
Propylene Glycol	0-6.0%,
Sorbitol	0 - 8%,
TEA Lauryl Sulfate (40% a.i.)	5 - 12%,
Cocoamidopropyl Betaine (28% a.i.)	5 - 10%,
Sodium Laureth Sulfate(30% a.i.)	5 - 15%,
Sodium Oleate	1 - 5%, and
Acetamide MEA	0- 5.0%,

wherein a.i. designates an active ingredient.

22. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises synthetic materials.

23. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises naturally occurring materials.

24. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) is reticulated.

25. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) is non-reticulated.

26. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) is selected from the group consisting essentially of porous polyurethane, polyethylene or cellulose.

27. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises a sponge.

28. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises a web of fibers.

29. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises non-woven materials.

30. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the substrate (11) comprises cotton and loofah-based materials.

31. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of cleansing agent (12) to substrate (11) is between about 2 to 1 and 10 to 1.

32. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of cleansing agent (12) to substrate (11) is about 7 to 1.

33. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including fragrances.

34. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including skin moisturizers.

35. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including one or more of anti-cellulite substances, anti-aging substances, herbal substances, natural extracts and synthetic extracts.

36. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including colorants.

37. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including one or more active ingredients comprising sunscreen agents, antimicrobials, antiseptics and/or healing agents and combinations thereof.

38. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 further including one or more skin feel additives including one or more of:

olive oil at the 0.1% - 3.0%;

fatty acids, stearic acid and/or palmitic acid at 1 -10%; and
superfating agents, mineral oil, and/or lanolin.

39. The cleansing device (10) of claim 1 wherein the cleansing agent (12) comprises a solidified pourable soap having a melting point between 120 to 200°F.

40. A method of manufacturing a cleansing device (10), comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a pourable cleansing agent (12) that is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range;
- (b) heating the cleansing agent (12) to within the second temperature range such that the cleansing agent (12) is in pourable molten form;
- (c) applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to one or more portions of a substrate (11) having a cellular structure; and
- (d) allowing the cleansing agent (12) to cool down to within the first temperature range to resolidify on the substrate (11);

wherein the cleansing agent (12) is distributed on said one or more portion of said substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of the substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein upon cooling to said first temperature range the molten cleansing agent re-solidifies to its original composition, and the step (d) further includes the steps of allowing the cleansing agent (12) to cool down to within the first temperature range without a forced drying step.

42. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of heating the cleansing agent (12) to within the second temperature range includes the steps of heating the cleansing agent (12) to within about 120 to 200°F.

43. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of allowing the cleansing agent (12) to cool down to within the first temperature range further includes the steps of allowing the cleansing agent (12) to cool down to about room temperature.

44. The method of claim 40 wherein the step (d) further includes the steps of allowing the cleansing agent (12) to cool down to within the first temperature range with a forced drying step.

45. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further comprises the steps of distributing the molten cleansing agent (12) substantially throughout said substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of the substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the resolidified cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

46. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further comprises the steps of dipping the substrate (11) into the molten cleansing agent (12).

47. The method of claim 46 further comprising the steps of compressing the substrate (11) while dipping the substrate (11) into the molten cleansing agent (12).

48. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further comprises the steps of immersing the substrate (11) into the molten cleansing agent (12).

49. The method of claim 48 further comprising the steps of compressing the substrate (11) while immersing the substrate (11) into the molten cleansing agent (12).

50. The method of claim 48 wherein the steps of immersing the substrate (11) into the molten cleansing agent (12) further includes the steps of maintaining the substrate (11) immersed from about 5 to 50 seconds.

51. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further comprises the steps of injecting the molten cleansing agent (12) into the substrate (11).

52. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further comprises the steps of spraying the molten cleansing agent (12) on the substrate (11).

53. The method of claim 40 further including the steps of squeezing excess molten cleansing agent (12) from the substrate (11) before allowing the molten cleansing agent (12) to cool down.

54. A cleansing pad manufactured according to the method of claim 40.

55. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) further includes the steps of selectively applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to a plurality of substrates (11) at the same time in a batch process.

56. The method of claim 40 wherein the step of applying the molten cleansing agent (12) to the substrate (11) further includes the steps of selectively applying different amounts and/or different formulations of the molten cleansing agent (12) to different portions of the substrate (11).

57. A method of manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10) in sequence or at the same time, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pourable cleansing agent (12) that is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range;

(b) heating the cleansing agent (12) to within the second temperature range such that the cleansing agent (12) is in pourable molten form;

64. The apparatus (100) of claim 63 wherein the platform (109) keeps said at least a portion of each substrate (11) immersed in the molten cleansing agent (12) for a period of time such that each substrate (11) absorbs the molten cleansing agent (12) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of each substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

65. The apparatus (100) of claim 63 further comprising a press (110) for compressing each substrate (11) and decompressing each substrate (11) while said at least a portion of each substrate (11) is immersed in the molten cleansing agent (12) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

66. The apparatus (100) of claim 63 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

67. The apparatus (100) of claim 66 further comprising a heating element (104) for applying heat to the solid cleansing agent (12) to raise the temperature of the cleansing agent (12) to the second temperature range whereby the solid cleansing agent (12) changes into the molten form.

68. An apparatus (200) for manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10) in sequence or at the same time, comprising:

a container (204) that holds one or more substrates (11) each having a cellular structure;

a tank (202) that holds a molten cleansing agent (12) and supplies the molten cleansing agent (12) to the container (204) for absorption by each substrate (11); and

a press (212) that compresses each substrate (11) and decompresses each substrate (11) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

69. The apparatus (200) of claim 68 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

70. The apparatus (200) of claim 68 further comprising an injector (310) that injects molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

71. An apparatus (300) for manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10) in sequence or at the same time, comprising:

a support (204) for holding one or more substrates (11) each having a cellular structure;

one or more injectors (310) for injecting a pourable cleansing agent (12) that is in a molten state, into each substrate (11); and

a platform (215) carrying each injector (310), wherein the platform (215) inserts the injector (310) into each substrate (11) such that each injector (310) injects the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

72. The apparatus (300) of claim 71 wherein the platform (215) further retracts each injector (310) from each substrate (11), allowing the molten cleansing agent (12) to cool down and solidify in each substrate (11).

73. The apparatus (300) of claim 72 wherein the injector (310) injects the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of each substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

74. The apparatus (300) of claim 71 further comprising a press (212) for compressing each substrate (11) and decompressing each substrate (11) while each injector (310) injects the molten cleansing agent (12) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

75. The apparatus (300) of claim 71 further comprising a sprayer (400) for spraying molten cleansing agent (12) onto each substrate (11).

76. The apparatus (300) of claim 71 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

77. An apparatus (500) for manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10) in sequence or at the same time, comprising:

a support (504) for holding each substrate (11) having a cellular structure; and
a sprayer (518) for spraying a pourable cleansing agent (12) that is in a molten state, onto each substrate (11).

78. The apparatus (500) of claim 77 wherein the sprayer (518) sprays the molten cleansing agent (12) onto each substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of each substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

79. The apparatus (500) of claim 77 further comprising a press (506) for compressing each substrate (11) and decompressing each substrate (11) while the sprayer (518) sprays the molten cleansing agent (12) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

80. The apparatus (500) of claim 77 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

81. An apparatus (500) for manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10) in sequence or at the same time, comprising:

an applicator (508) for applying a pourable cleansing agent (12) that is in a molten state, to one or more substrates (11) each having a cellular structure; and

a conveyer (10) for carrying each substrate (11) to the applicator (508) for the applicator (508) to apply the molten cleansing agent (12) to each substrate (11).

82. The apparatus (500) of claim 81 wherein the applicator (508) applies the molten cleansing agent to each substrate (11) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of each substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

83. The apparatus (500) of claim 82 further including a controller (516) that controls the operation the applicator (508).

84. The apparatus (500) of claim 81 further comprising a press (506) for compressing each substrate (11) and decompressing each substrate (11) while the applicator (508) applies the molten cleansing agent (12) to each substrate (11) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

85. The apparatus (500) of claim 81 wherein the applicator (508) comprises an injector.

86. The apparatus (500) of claim 81 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

87. An apparatus (600) for manufacturing one or more cleansing devices (10), comprising:

a container (610) for holding a molten cleansing agent (12);

a support (614) for holding one or more substrates (11) each having a cellular structure;

a platform (604) that lowers each substrate (11) held by the support (614) into the container (610) such that at least a portion of each substrate (11) is immersed in the molten cleansing agent (12), wherein each substrate (11) absorbs the molten cleansing agent

(12), and then the platform (604) raises each substrate (11) out of the container (610) allowing the molten cleansing (12) to cool down and solidify on each substrate (11); and an injector (612) that injects molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

88. The apparatus (600) of claim 87 wherein the platform (604) keeps said at least a portion of each substrate (11) immersed in the molten cleansing agent (12) for a period of time such that each substrate (11) absorbs the molten cleansing agent (12) in a quantity sufficient for multiple uses of each substrate (11) in conjunction with a solvent that dissolves the solid cleansing agent (12) for cleansing purposes.

89. The apparatus (600) of claim 87 further comprising a press (619) for compressing each substrate (11) and decompressing each substrate (11) while said at least a portion of each substrate (11) is immersed in the molten cleansing agent (12) to induce transfusion of the molten cleansing agent (12) into each substrate (11).

90. The apparatus (600) of claim 87 wherein the cleansing agent (12) is in essentially solid form at a first temperature range, and in essentially pourable molten form at a second temperature range.

91. The apparatus (600) of claim 87 further comprising a controller (618) that controls the operation of the apparatus (600).

Box No. VIII (iv) DECLARATION: INVENTORSHIP (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)
The declaration must conform to the following standardized wording provided for in Section 214; see Notes to Boxes Nos. VIII, VIII (i) to (v) (in general) and the specific Notes to Box No. VIII (iv). If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

**Declaration of inventorship (Rules 4.17(iv) and 51bis.1(a)(iv))
 for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America:**

I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole (if only one inventor is listed below) or joint (if more than one inventor is listed below) inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

This declaration is directed to the international application of which it forms a part (if filing declaration with application).

This declaration is directed to international application No. PCT/..... (if furnishing declaration pursuant to Rule 26ter).

I hereby declare that my residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified international application, including the claims of said application. I have identified in the request of said application, in compliance with PCT Rule 4.10, any claim to foreign priority, and I have identified below, under the heading "Prior Applications," by application number, country or Member of the World Trade Organization, day, month and year of filing, any application for a patent or inventor's certificate filed in a country other than the United States of America, including any PCT international application designating at least one country other than the United States of America, having a filing date before that of the application on which foreign priority is claimed.

Prior Applications:

I hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is known by me to be material to patentability as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name: Popovsky, Michael

Residence: Beverly Hills, California
 (city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address: 205 S. Reeves Dr.
 Beverly Hills, California 90212, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: *Michael Popovsky*
 (if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date: 20 June 2004
 (of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

Name: Popovsky, Yelena

Residence: Beverly Hills, California
 (city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address: 205 S. Reeves Dr.
 Beverly Hills, California 90212, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: *Yelena Popovsky*
 (if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date: 20 June 2004
 (of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

☒ This declaration is continued on the following sheet, "Continuation of Box No. VIII (iv)".

Continuation of Box No. VIII (i) to (v) DECLARATION

If the space is insufficient in any of Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) to furnish all the information, including in the case where more than two inventors are to be named in Box No. VIII (iv), in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VIII ..." (indicate the item number of the Box) and furnish the information in the same manner as required for the purposes of the Box in which the space was insufficient. If additional space is needed in respect of two or more declarations, a separate continuation box must be used for each such declaration. If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

Continuation Box No. VIII (iv) Declaration: Inventorship

Name: Foote, Susanne

Residence: Boise, Idaho

Mailing address: 603 W. Main St., Boise, Idaho 83702, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

Name: Lassen, Shawna

Residence: Seattle, Washington

Mailing address: 5730 NE 26th Ave., Seattle, Washington 98105, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

Name: Jungermann, Eric,

Residence: Phoenix, Arizona

Mailing address: 2323 N. Central Ave #1001, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

Name: Poper, Maxwell

Residence: Westminster, California

Mailing address: 5311 Harvard Ave., Westminster, California 92683, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

Name: Marcus, Raulee

Residence: Hermosa Beach, California

Mailing address: 3335 Highland Ave., Hermosa Beach, California 90254, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature:  _____ Date: 20th June 2004

Continuation of Box No. VIII (i) to (v) DECLARATION

If the space is insufficient in any of Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) to furnish all the information, including in the case where more than two inventors are to be named in Box No. VIII (iv), in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VIII ..." (indicate the item number of the Box) and furnish the information in the same manner as required for the purposes of the Box in which the space was insufficient. If additional space is needed in respect of two or more declarations, a separate continuation box must be used for each such declaration. If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

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Name: Foote, Susanne

Residence: Boise, Idaho

Mailing address: 603 W. Main St., Boise, Idaho 83702, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: Date: 26 June 2004

Name: Lassen, Shawna

Residence: Seattle, Washington

Mailing address: 5730 NE 26th Ave., Seattle, Washington 98105, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____

Date: _____ June 2004

Name: Jungermann, Eric,

Residence: Phoenix, Arizona

Mailing address: 2323 N. Central Ave #1001, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____

Date: _____ June 2004

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Mailing address: 5311 Harvard Ave., Westminster, California 92683, United States of America

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Date: _____ June 2004

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Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

Name: Lassen, Shawna

Residence: Seattle, Washington

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Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: Shawna Lassen Date: 2004 June 2004

Name: Jungermann, Eric,

Residence: Phoenix, Arizona

Mailing address: 2323 N. Central Ave #1001, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

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Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

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Citizenship: United States of America

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Name: Marcus, Raulee

Residence: Hermosa Beach, California

Mailing address: 3335 Highland Ave., Hermosa Beach, California 90254, United States of America

Citizenship: United States of America

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ June 2004

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/21435

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A47K 7/03; A47L 13/17

US CL : 15/104.93; 427/402, 417, 430.1; 118/44, 100, 302, 304, 324, 407, 408, 410, 423

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 15/104.93; 427/402, 417, 430.1; 118/44, 100, 302, 304, 324, 407, 408, 410, 423

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2,320,858 A (FIELD) 01 June 1943, see entire document.	40,43-49,54,57-60,63,64,66,67 ----- 50,87,88,90,91 71-73,75,76
Y	US 3,094,735 A (HANLON) 25 June 1963, see entire document.	
X --- Y	US 5,955,417 A (TAYLOR) 21 September 1999, see entire document.	1,2,22,29,40,42-45,51-55,77,78,80-83;85,86 ----- 3-19,23-28,30-39,41,56,62,71-73,75,76
Y	US 5,960,506 A (REUVEN) 05 October 1999, see entire document.	33,34,37

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 January 2005 (26.01.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

10 FEB 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Authorized officer

Randall Chin

Telephone No. (571) 272-1700

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/21435

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
 2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
 3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
 4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
- Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US04/21435

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

I. Claims 1-39 and 54, drawn to an apparatus.

II. Claims 40-53 and 55-62, drawn to a method.

III. Claims 63-91, drawn to a manufacturing apparatus.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I is drawn to a cleansing device, Group II is drawn to a method of manufacturing a cleansing device, and Group III is drawn to an apparatus for manufacturing a cleansing device. Unity of invention does not exist because there is no technical relationship among the claimed inventions which involve one or more same or corresponding special technical features. Furthermore, claim 1 in the invention of Group I is not deemed to define any special technical feature as merely a web of fibers and a solid cleansing agent distributed substantially throughout the substrate to be used in conjunction with a solvent is being claimed and is not deemed to define any "special technical feature" defining a contribution over the prior art. Claim 1, for example, merely exemplifies a Brillo pad.